

**HORSE RACING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Michigan State University McPhail Center  
Vaupel Conference Room  
1131 Bogue Street  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824**

**MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 2017**

**PRESENT**

Don Ryker, DVM, Chair, Horse Racing Advisory Commission  
Thomas Barrett, Horse Racing Advisory Commission  
Mike Carlo, Horse Racing Advisory Commission  
Nancy Frank, DVM, Horse Racing Advisory Commission  
George Kutlenios, Horse Racing Advisory Commission  
Frank Nickels, DVM, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Ryker called the meeting of the Horse Racing Advisory Commission to order at 10:15 a.m. on January 20, 2017. Matt Blinkilde with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) called the roll with Commissioners Ryker, Barrett, Carlo, Frank, Kutlenios, and Nickels present.

**EXPLANATION OF BYLAWS**

Matt Blinkilde with MDARD gave a brief overview and description of Robert's Rules of Order and benefits of bylaws generally.

**ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER NICKELS MOVED TO ADOPT ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER AS BYLAWS FOR THE COMMISSION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KUTLENIOS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**EXPLANATION OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, ETHICS STATUTES**

Danielle Allison-Yokom, Assistant Attorney General gave a brief overview of the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, and applicable state ethics statutes governing the members of the Horse Racing Advisory Commission. Assistant Attorney General Allison-Yokom answered several clarifying questions from Commissioners pertaining to these statutes.

**EXPLANATION OF SECTION 6A OF THE HORSE RACING LAW OF 1995, PA 279 OF 1995**

Matt Blinkilde (MDARD) gave a brief overview of Section 6a of the Horse Racing Law of 1995 and a general description of the Horse Racing Advisory Council, how business of the Commission must be conducted, and what the requirements and mission of the Commission are. Additionally, there was conversation among the Commission regarding consultation with the Legislature and clarifying questions regarding their responsibilities.

Matt Blinkilde (MDARD) also explained that the statute does allow for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, but that the Legislature did not appropriate separate funds for those expenses, and the Michigan Agriculture and Equine Industry Development Fund would have to be the fund-source for those expenses and for budgeting purposes, an agreement of the Commission to either seek reimbursement or not would be helpful for staff.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KUTLENIOS MOVED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO SERVE WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NICKELS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Matt Blinkilde (MDARD) gave an explanation of a Vice Chair position and recommendation that the Commission consider appointing a member as Vice Chair in the event that the Chairman could not attend a meeting. Chairman Ryker recommended Commissioner Nickels.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER FRANK MOTIONED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER NICKELS AS VICE CHAIR. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARLO. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **PRESENTATION BY MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD ON HORSE RACING IN MICHIGAN**

Dave Murley, Deputy Director of Legal Affairs and Gaming Regulation with the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) gave a presentation on the MGCB and Horse Racing in Michigan. The presentation included the MGCBs legal responsibilities, history, and structure. Additionally, he presented on the MGCBs specific responsibilities with respect to horse racing, MGCBs oversight roles, staff, historical wager and funding data for horse racing in Michigan, and legislative changes made within the last year as well as changing the facility conducting testing of horses, using an RFP and contracting those responsibilities out.

#### **PRESENTATION BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF ON MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE AND EQUINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Cinda Karlik (MDARD) gave an overview of the Michigan Agriculture and Equine Industry Development Fund, fund levels, statutory expenditures, the appropriations process and what that means for expenses from the fund (no proration of Gaming Control Board and MDARD expenditures, requirement for equal proration for statutory expenditure categories). Answered questions from Commissioners on particular line items and categories of expenditures.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, TOPICS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISCUSSED AT FUTURE MEETINGS, GOALS THAT MEMBERS HAVE FOR THE COMMISSION**

Each Commissioner had an opportunity to introduce themselves, talk about their background as it pertains to horses, horse racing, or other related topics. Additionally, each member discussed what they thought should be goals, future topics of discussion, and priorities of the Horse Racing Advisory Commission individually and as a group with a primary focus on the possible addition of advanced deposit wagering in state law.

### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND PLACE**

Commissioners discussed possible dates for the next Horse Racing Commission Meeting. A tentative date of March 6, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the same location (Michigan State University, McPhail Center, Vaupel Conference Room) was agreed upon pending confirmation from members and availability of the conference room.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS**

Commissioners returned to discussing a number of topics for future meetings including the change in laboratory testing and standards, other equine groups they may want to approach to join in the issue, expand the scope of horse racing to be one more broadly equine in nature and not just racing and gambling specifically. Additionally, Commissioners asked questions regarding the new national horse drug testing standards being implemented. Answers and testimony were presented by Bill Frank, DVM, (Michigan Gaming Control Board) as to those standards and that a request for proposals for a private sector laboratory had been issued and a contract is being negotiated with Industrial Laboratories in Colorado.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER NICKELS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KUTLENIOS. MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.